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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN-PROCESS MANUFACTURING OF
A HIDDEN INSTRUMENT PANEL AIR BAG DOORABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

According to the present invention, an instrument panel cover for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle compartment having a supplemental inflatable restraint (SIR) system and a method for manufacturing the instrument panel cover are provided. The instrument panel cover includes a body having an inner surface and an opposing outer surface, the body having an air bag cushion deployment region formed in the inner surface thereof, the deployment region being defined by at least one score formed in the inner surface to a predetermined depth, wherein the at least one score is formed by at least one scoring member which contacts the instrument panel cover during the manufacture thereof and the advancement of the at least one scoring member causes the instrument panel cover to thin out in predetermined locations which define the at least one score. Because the present invention incorporates the scoring process into the process for forming the instrument panel cover, the present invention advantageously eliminates the need of secondary scoring of the air bag door seam and therefore provides cost benefits and a reduction in processing and manufacturing times.

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